



# NH Scholars Scoop

College Ready, Work Ready, Ready for Life

January 2008

Volume 4

*In 2008, we welcome a New Year, undoubtedly more snow and...*

## **Winter Workshops & Presentations**

High school course selection is fast approaching. All middle schools should coordinate a program for their 8<sup>th</sup> graders prior to course selection. I'd also encourage middle schools to schedule an evening program for parents of middle school students. This is an opportunity to inform parents about the program and discuss early college planning.

In addition, high schools are encouraged to coordinate workshops for their students to reinforce the importance of *New Hampshire Scholars*. These presentations may include, but are not limited to: college preparatory workshops, seminars on the importance of a challenging course load, choosing a college major or career field, resume workshops, interview techniques (21<sup>st</sup> Century skills), etc.



**“There is remarkable consensus among educators and business and policy leaders on one key conclusion: we need to bring what we teach and how we teach into the 21st century.”**

**TIME Magazine,  
December 18, 2006**

We suggest inviting your business partners to participate in these workshops. If schools need assistance finding presenters for these workshops please contact [Scott Power](#).

**When organizing presentations, please remember to collect the performance evaluation surveys; [www.NHscholars.org/SLToolkit.cfm](http://www.NHscholars.org/SLToolkit.cfm)**

## **School Spotlight**

This month's school spotlight section will not single out one district, but rather offer suggestions on ways to engage students throughout high school.

Students require ongoing reinforcement and recognition. That is why it is so important to provide constant reminders and encouragement to students in grades 8-11. Seniors can more easily see the reward as they become more familiar with college admission, financial aid and job market trends. But for underclassmen, the thought of a scholarship or becoming a "better candidate" for a job, is a tough sell.

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*Here are some ideas in place at various schools:*

- NH Scholar indication on their student ID
- 5-10% store discount for students at local retailers (must show proof of student ID)
- Visible name recognition on display board in school lobby
- Utilize your school's web site to promote NH Scholars and its events
- Showcase NH Scholars during morning announcements and in school newsletters
- Monthly meetings or activities for NH Scholars or interested students
  - *Breakfasts, pizza lunch, pasta dinners, career fairs, informational interview sessions, ice cream socials, etc.*
  - *A good way to balance the cost AND get businesses involved is to ask your business partners to rotate sponsorship of an activity each month*
- Special field trips to area businesses (i.e. job shadow opportunities)
- Raffle items to local events (shows, athletic contests, concerts)



## **National State Scholars Summit**

State Scholars Initiative is pleased to announce the dates for the National Summit on Academic Rigor and Relevance in Boston, Massachusetts. The summit will be held at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel & Towers on April 29-30, 2008. [Read more....](#)

State Scholars Initiative  
**NATIONAL SUMMIT**  
on Academic Rigor and Relevance



*New Hampshire Assembles State Scholars Team.*

Team Chair - **Fred Kocher** (President, NH High Technology Council); Team Coordinator - **Scott Power** (NH Scholars Director); **Mary Heath** (Deputy Commissioner, NH DOE); **Paul Leather** (Director, NHDOE Career Tech Division);

**Tom Horgan** (President, NH College & University Council); **Debby Scire** (Executive Director, Campus Compact of NH); **Esteban López** (Director of Latino Initiative, NHCUC); **Gary Steinbach** (School-to-Work Coordinator, Winnisquam Regional High School). *If interested in joining Gary & Esteban on the waiting list, please contact Scott.*

The State Scholars Initiative National Summit on Academic Rigor and Relevance, sponsored by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) will be held April 29-30, 2008, at the Park Plaza Hotel & Towers in Boston, Massachusetts.

The purpose of this meeting is twofold: 1) to examine the role and effectiveness of the business community in driving national education reform conversations and 2) discuss policy reform efforts to increase academic rigor and to improve academic relevance in high school. The summit will draw on national business and education leaders to serve as thinkers and speakers and to develop strategies for the improvement of high school rigor and relevance.

All 50 states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands are invited to send a team to the summit.

## **Data Collection Reminder**

Data from the 1<sup>st</sup> Term (fall semester) is due to WICHE by **February 22, 2008**. Please contact Scott Power, [spower@nhcuc.org](mailto:spower@nhcuc.org) or Cyndy Currier, [cyndy@seresc.org](mailto:cyndy@seresc.org) with any questions when preparing this next round for submission. Thank you!

## **Business Partners**

As you know, the unique part of this program is the connection with our business leaders. It is extremely important to establish relationships with local businesses, not only to provide a strong connection and network for our students, but most importantly for the business community to convey the NH Scholars' message to them.

Northeast Delta Dental in Concord is a Scholars business partner. Tom Raffio, President & CEO says, "Collaboration between a school and the business community demonstrates an increased support system for students. Needless to say, when students hear local business professionals talk about the importance of gaining a high skill set, developing interview skills, and understanding how to handle oneself outside of school, it really hits home."

Business leaders: If your local school hasn't requested a program recently, initiate it by offering to speak to students on behalf of the New Hampshire Scholars program.

"A good education has a real world payoff for students, businesses, and communities. New Hampshire Scholars gives students an edge – one that's of real value to them, as well as the schools they attend, the companies they will work for, and the communities where they live," says Fred Kocher, President of the New Hampshire High Technology Council.



Over 60 current NH Scholars students at Winnisquam Regional High School had the opportunity to meet with 15 local business partners on December 14<sup>th</sup>. The NH Scholar breakfast encouraged students to inquire about career fields they were interested in.

Please include NH Scholars as a monthly topic of discussion at your school-to-career advisory meetings. If you need assistance building your business network, please contact [Scott Power](#).

## **NH Scholars Indication on High School Transcripts**

Colleges and universities are now well aware that interest in *New Hampshire Scholars* is growing quickly. NHCUC & New Hampshire Scholars meet with admission directors five times per year via the NHCUC Admission Committee. College admission offices have been informed that they will begin seeing more transcripts with NH Scholars indication each year. Admission reps continue to state clearly that course rigor and a challenging schedule is very important in their evaluation of student's potential.

Many of the pilot schools have electronically listed NH Scholars under "awards" in the bottom right hand corner of the transcript. It is the recommendation of *New Hampshire Scholars* that school districts statewide follow suite, as to achieve consistency. Colleges will begin to look here for this indication.

Colleges have also informed us when seeing the NH Scholar designation, it will signify eligibility for the ACG Grant. No further transcript assessment is needed on their behalf.

**Remember to include NH Scholars indication on transcripts for current seniors as they apply to colleges this winter and spring.**

## Filing the FAFSA as a NH Scholar

The image shows a portion of the FAFSA application form for the 2008-2009 year. It includes sections for 'Applying by the Deadline', 'Using Your Tax Return', 'Filling Out the FAFSA', 'Making Your FAFSA', and 'Let's Get Started'. A 'STATE AID DEADLINES' table is also visible, listing deadlines for various states and programs like Pell Grants and Academic Competitiveness Grants.

As high school seniors complete college applications this winter, please remind them to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Any student seeking **financial aid** of any kind must complete the FAFSA every year to remain eligible.

While NH Scholars graduates may be eligible for institutional or local scholarships, a federal grant program called the Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) may also be available. Visit [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) to determine eligibility via the free application.

Students who are Pell-eligible U.S. Citizens enrolled full-time and have participated in a rigorous high school course of study, like the **NH Scholars Core Course of Study**, may qualify for:

- Up to \$750 for first year college students
- Up to \$1,300 for second year college students

Students should check “**State Scholar Graduate**” on the FAFSA when automatically prompted about ACG eligibility.

Students should always contact the college’s financial aid office with any questions concerning their eligibility. Consider these additional resources:

- [www.nhcf.org](http://www.nhcf.org) – New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
- [www.nebhe.org](http://www.nebhe.org) – Tuition break for New England residents
- [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) – National scholarship search engine
- Guidance office, church, community centers, parent’s place of employment, etc.

## In the News



Do you know a New Hampshire college student looking for an internship or to begin their career in New Hampshire? Are you a business looking for highly qualified interns? The NH College & University Council has collaborated with college career offices and New Hampshire businesses to offer a comprehensive web site for students and employers.

Employers can connect with over 70,000 students here in New Hampshire for free. Students and recent graduates can browse internships and entry level positions at businesses across the State. Visit [www.Intern2careerNH.org](http://www.Intern2careerNH.org) for more details.

And don't forget about the largest academic job fair north of Boston! On February 21<sup>st</sup> students and alumni from 22 colleges and universities in New Hampshire will convene in Manchester for NHCUC's Annual Job Fair. Visit the link above for more detail.

Scott Power, NH Director, [spower@nhcuc.org](mailto:spower@nhcuc.org), 603.225.4199 x300

Visit [www.NHscholars.org](http://www.NHscholars.org) for more information.  
Click on the “Resources” tab for archived newsletters.